

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00730 201457Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /127 W

-----201504Z 017393 /42

R 201347Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6135

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN ATTITUDE ON LAW OF THE SEA

REF: STATE 60995, ALGIERS 179

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH ALOUANE, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS SOURCE OF PROBLEMS. HE MAY BE IMPLEMENTING GOA POLICY IN PARTICULARLY OBNOXIOUS WAY, BUT OUR TALKS HERE ON LOS GIVE EVERY INDICATION THAT HE REPRESENTING ALGERIAN POSITION ACCURATELY AND THAT SUBSTANCE OF GOA POLICY WOULD BE HARD LINE AND CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR US NO MATTER WHO WERE TO PRESENT IT.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ALOUANE PERSONALLY HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OR IMPORTANCE BUT NEITHER DO WE SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF USEFULLY CIRCUMVENTING HIM. MEDJAD, DIRECTOR OF JURIDICAL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, ALOUANE'S BOSS AND CHIEF OF ALGERIAN LOS NEGOTIATING, ONE OF FRIENDLIEST, MOST APPROACHABLE CONTACTS EMBASSY HAS HAD SINCE BEFORE ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE, EQUALLY AS HARD LINE ON SUBSTANCE (ALGIERS REFTEL).

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3. IT MIGHT BE MORE PLEASANT TO DEAL WITH MEDJAD OR ALOUANE'S SIDEKICK HOCINE MESLOUB, WHO ALSO LOS EXPERT, BUT NO SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES WOULD EMERGE. ALGERIANS WELL-VERSED IN LOS MATTERS AND WELL AWARE OF WHAT THEY WANT AND WHY.

4. SUGGEST US DEL MIGHT CONSIDER WORKING THROUGH  
MEDJAD OR MESLOUB, WHO WILL AT LEAST BE REASONABLE  
INTERLOCUTEURS, BUT CONCENTRATE EFFORTS ON UNDERCUTTING  
AND ISOLATING ALGERIANS. ALGERIANS APPEAR INCREASINGLY  
ISOLATED IN ARAB WORLD (AS RESULT OF SAHARA), IN  
AFRICA (AS RESULT PAST HEAVY-HANDEDNESS AND PARSIMONY  
WITH OIL REVENUES) AND IN THIRD WORLD GENERALLY AS RESULT  
PAST STRIDENT RADICALISM WHICH APPEARS TO BE LOSING ITS  
IMPACT. THIS CAREFUL CULTIVATION OF MODERATES WHILE  
TREATING ALGERIANS CORRECTLY WOULD APPEAR BEST BET; WE  
SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF MODIFYING THEIR OPPOSITION.LYNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, LAW OF THE SEA, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 60995, 77 ALGIERS 179  
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**SAS ID:** 3055142  
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**Subject:** ALGERIAN ATTITUDE ON LAW OF THE SEA  
**TAGS:** PLOS, AG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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